THE EXCITER

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APRIL CLUB MEETINGS ON THE 7th & 21st 8 P.M. AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 S. FLORES ST.

DOOR PRIZES

At the March 3 meeting the following door prizes were won: $2.50 Certificate from Radio & TV Parts Co., W5RSD; $2.50 certificate from Sherman Electronics Supply, won by Bill Ross; $2.50 certificate from Bill Case Sound, K5PKX; and the Printed Circuit Board of the Month from Irving Electronics, W5FZN. Then at the 17 March Meeting the prizes went this way: $2.50 from Radio & TV Parts Co., K5FOU; Sherman Electronics Supply, K5UKN; Bill Case Sound, W5EWF; and the Circuit board from Irving Electronics, K5OPV. At each meeting about $10.00 worth of prizes are given away. Why not attend all meetings and maybe you will be one of the lucky ones.

VHF AND UP

CQ SIX is a monthly bulletin put out by the Six Meter Club of San Antonio. This group is to be complimented for its interest in the upper frequencies and for being organized in a manner which is beneficial to its members. Contact any of the members on 50 mc. for additional info.

This column must make specific note of this year's General Electric Edison Radio Amateur Award. The proud winners are W6NLZ, John Chambers, and KH6UK, Ralph Thomas. Who will forget their noble achievements of 2-way contact over a 2540 mile path on 144 mc. in 1957; 2-way contact on 220 mc. in 1959 and one-way contact on 432 mc. in 1960? Two-way contact would have been established on 432 mc. except KH6-UK's 416B front end went to pot and it was not discovered until the ideal ducting conditions had waned.

Interest and equipment is ripe for an attempt to connect Europe and North America by 144 mc. G2HCG is making arrangements to use the possible ducting route, though there will have to be much burning of the midnight final to bring about such a contact. Weather conditions over the Atlantic path are much worse than over the calmer Pacific route and ducting is not as likely.

W5VY, Pat Patterson, who has held several world VHF records, reports a strange signal return which belongs in the area of long delay echos. These long delay echos have been reported from time-to-time by various observers throughout the world but they are extremely elusive and difficult to repeat under controlled conditions.

It was about 0800 CST in mid-February 61 when Pat called CQ using a recorded tape loop on 28 mc. SSB. The TX was a KWS-1 running 500 watts into a Yagi antenna aimed to the southeast. Backscatter signals from the north were evident. As Pat stood by to listen for someone calling him, he weakly heard himself calling CQ. His signal was tunable on his receiver though weak. The echo lasted for about 15 seconds and then gradually faded out. Equipment mal-function is not suspected.

Not only is a long delay echo of great scientific interest because of the difficulty of explaining where the

Editor K5PKX
VHF Editor W5LFM
DX Editor W5LGG
Mobile Editor W5EJT
Novice Editors K5RNN and K5RNO
Advertising Manager K5VCR
Circulation Manager K5OPT
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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB W5SC
W5HHE, Pres. W5IWE, V. P.
K5VCR, Sec. K5TYI, Treas.
W5DKF, Program chairman

signal has been when travelling at the speed of light, but think of the implications if Pat tried to work himself for a QSL card! But so it goes and experiments continue. Good luck. Cal Graf, W5LFM.

HIGH POWER

It may be of some comfort to Hams that have had a brush with the FCC to know that the commercial stations are subject to the same rules only with more drastic results. The FCC has levied a $10,000 fine on station KDWB of St. Paul, Minn., owned by KDWB Broadcasting Corp., which is owned by a subsidiary of the Crowell-Collier Publishing Co. On the night of 25 January 1960, an FCC inspector visited the station and found it to be exceeding the power limit and antenna pattern that its license prescribed.

The station operates on 630 kilocycles with 5,000 watts in the daytime and 500 watts at night, using a different antenna pattern at night. The stations comment was that it had been using daytime power and antenna pattern between midnight and 4 a.m. since August 1959. KDWB has 30 days to contest the action or pay up. Those words "$10,000 fine" in the FCC rules really mean $10,000 fine.

FIELD DAY

June 24-25 will be the big days for Hams all over the United States. It will be Field Day when Hams forsake the old shack and move outdoors. This year, as in the past, the San Antonio Radio Club will set up W5SC/5 and operate all bands (and we mean all bands). If you want to really have a ball and meet some nice people, both on the air and eyeball, be sure to participate. There are openings for operators on every band, every mode. If you like CW, SSB or AM there is a place for you. Bring your own rig or use one that someone else brought out. The main thing is to come out and join the fun. Gene, W5EJT, is the FD Chairman. Give him a call at DI 2-2225 and tell him of your preference. In 1959 we were second in the US. Last year we had a little bad luck (like a cloudburst), but this year we are out to be number one. The site for this year has not been selected but everyone will be notified of the location in plenty of time. You can be sure that it will be a good one. Remember, you don't have to be a club member to join in the fun. See you Field Day!

APRIL PROGRAM

At the 21 April club meeting

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Also many others.

FRED K5ENK PAUL K5OHG JIM K5TYI

W8PYR will give a talk on antennas. He is a representative of Antenna Specialists Co., Cleveland, Ohio. He has been a Ham for over 25 years and understands the Hams antenna problems. All hams or prospective hams are invited to attend the club meeting and hear this interesting talk. Visitors are also eligible for the drawing for door prizes.

DX NOTES

Spring is upon us; and this year it seems to be causing more cases than usual of that strange malady DX-PEDITION-ITIS . . . Probably the most ambitious of these endeavors will be the W9EVI — Colombian Radio Club trip to Malpelo Island scheduled for early April. This new DXCC country consists of one huge rock some two square miles in area jutting hundreds of feet straight up from the not-so-peaceful Pacific Ocean. You may recall that this was the scene last year of an unsuccessful attempt to land by a similiar DX-pedition. Crashing seas and turbulent winds defeated all efforts to put equipment ashore last year. We certainly wish the group better luck this year! Meanwhile keep a look out for HK0TU on AM, CW or SSB; all bands; and snare yourself a rare new DX country.

Other DX-peditions now in progress or in the offing include Kure Island by KH6ECD; East Pakistan by AP2CR; Laccadive Islands by VU2-NRM and Tristan da Cunha, ZD9AL, by ZS5GS. The Yasme around-the-world DX-pedition is currently stalled in San Diego after a series of near disasters in which Danny and his new bride had to be towed to port by the Coast Guard after engine failure and the development of serious leaks in the Yasme III. The San Diego DX Club is undertaking the task of underwriting the finances required to re-

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launch the Yasme III; but at this time it is uncertain whether or not the project can continue due to lack of funds.

On the local scene Roddy, K5BGB is nearing the 250 mark, DXCC confirmed; and your DX Editor was honored with membership in the FOC, sometimes known as the Fast Operators' Club, but correctly called the First Class Operators' Club. 'Nuff for now, so 73 and DX!

Len, W5LGG

40 METERS

Numerous locals are putting up 40 meter antennas and getting down on lowest frequencies due to conditions on the higher frequencies. Woody, K5HLP, has his peanut whistle mobile working. Fred, K5BGZ, is moving to California. W5ED, Van, has regular Friday evening activity meetings at Durhams Electronic School. Quite a few of the boys down there have their general tickets and others are working on them. W5FZN, Fuzzy, K5UKN, Jim, W5UKE, Ken, and other locals heard. Two old-timers were caught rag-chewing on 40 one Sunday PM, W5RT, Paul and W5MF, Keith. Koby, K5MZH, has been experimenting with antennas. Has a new one up every day. We understand Frank, K5OID, has gone sideband. Lee, K5HZR, has been serving as NCS for 7290 Net on occasions. Bill, K5MAN, ex-San Antonian is now located in Jackson, Miss. John, W5-EWF, is back on the band.

Some DX has been coming thru on 40. Any item would be appreciated. Two new generals, K5FRO and K5-FRF heard on 40.

73,
Aubrey, K5MOF

GUTTER DOPE

Nice to hear W5FND mobile again. With Spring in the air, how about some good old transmitter hunts Willard?

K5SJB should certainly merit some award for having handled 427 phone patches during 1960. Ninety percent of these were for personnel overseas.

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